

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 6, 17, 21, 23, 26 and 29 have been amended. Claims 4, 5, 19, 20, 22, 27 and 28 have been cancelled. Claims 1-3, 6-18, 21, 23-26 and 29 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1-4, 17-19, 21, 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Paterson et al. (US 6,412,042) (hereinafter "Paterson").

Independent claims 1, 17, 21 and 26 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 5, 20, 22 and 28, respectively, and are now believed to be in a condition for allowance.

Claims 4, 19 and 27 have been cancelled. Claims 2, 3 and 18 are dependent on claims 1 and 17, respectively, and are therefore believed to be allowable for the foregoing reason.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that claims 7-16 have been allowed and claims 5, 6, 20, 22-25 and 28-29 have been found to contain allowable subject matter. Claims 5, 20, 22 and 28 have been cancelled. Claim 23 has been rewritten in independent form. It is respectfully submitted that claims 6, 24, 25 and 29 are allowable in their present condition.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: Gregory W. Harper
Gregory W. Harper
Registration No. 55,248

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501